

**TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
May 29, 2008 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Burbank Traffic & Transportation Committee was held in the City Council Chambers, 275 E. Olive Avenue, on the above date. Michael Flad, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Michael Flad, Chair	Robert Heins
Joe Terranova, Vice Chair	Celeste Francis
Brian Malone	Hank Jannace
Donald Farquhar	Paul McKenna, Jr.
Ralph Herman	Lt. Ron Caruso
John Molinar	David Kriske

**Members Absent:** Michael Napolitano

**Staff Present:**

- Ken Johnson – Traffic Engineering, Public Works
- Bonnie Teaford – Public Works Director, Public Works
- Terre Hirsch – License and Code Administrator, License and Code
- Greg Hermann – Chief Assistant Community Director, Planning Division
- Sue Georgino – Community Development Director, CDD
- Rick Morillo – Senior Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office
- Kathe Ford – Account Clerk, License and Code
- Rabie Rahmani – Traffic Engineering, Public Works
- Melissa Blau – Recording Secretary, Public Works

**I. FLAG SALUTE**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2008 meeting with two abstentions. David Kriske and Lt. Ron Caruso abstained.

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** (Limited to items on the printed agenda or items regarding the business of the Traffic & Transportation Committee)

**A. Public**

Neil Evans, Attorney for United Taxi, feels they have complied with the requirements. Paul Dyson, resident and member of the Transportation Commission, patronizes City Cab regularly and finds them to be clean and nice. He suggested being flexible with G&S Transportation if their record is good. Mr. Dyson stated that many of the drivers are Burbank residents and they would lose their jobs if United Independent Taxi was permitted to work in Burbank. Jelena Maslovaric, from Clean Energy, spoke for G&S Transportation to support them fully. Chris Christman, speaking on behalf of People's Taxi, presented an email plus an attachment showing 50 permits currently held in West Hollywood by UITD. He stated that United Taxi did not disclose two of their Doing-Business-As (DBA) names during the process where they were required to disclose all of the names they go by. He does not believe that United Independent Taxi should do business in Burbank. Serj Minassians, a driver for City Cab, brought a letter and petition signed by other G&S Transportation drivers asking the Traffic & Transportation Committee to please deny United Taxi of the South-West's application. The drivers are remonstrating because they cannot afford the \$50,000 to join United Taxi of the South-West. Several taxi drivers waived their right to speak to the

## DRAFT

committee. Vic Kakosian, Public Relations Manager of United Taxi of the South-West, responded to the comment Mr. Minassians made about the cost of becoming a driver for his company by stating that the company is a non-profit association. He also stated that nothing is hidden. Melese Adamu, President of United Independent Taxi and United Taxi of the South-West, addressed the permit issue regarding West Hollywood. He explained that United Independent Taxi, Inc. had been assigned the 50 permits and when United Taxi of the South-West was added they informed West Hollywood and all other cities of the addition. John Gantus, attorney representing G&S Transportation Inc.-DBA City Cab, pointed out that United Taxi did not disclose the two legal entities as requested by the committee members. He also pointed out the importance of knowing the relationship each entity has to the other, especially because one entity has a lien against it. A representative for City Cab, Petros Keshishian, questioned the timeliness of United Independent Taxicab drivers in any of the other 19 cities, especially smaller cities, besides the City of Los Angeles because he had not heard anyone mention it.

### B. Committee Members/Staff

None.

## IV. REPORTS

### A. Taxi Cab Report– Terre Hirsch

None.

### B. Taxi Cab Needs and Necessity, Continued– Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported that the committee has two responsibilities; 1) to determine how many taxi permits should be given within a permit period and, 2) to decide if United Independent Taxi should be given any permits and how many they should get. If the Traffic & Transportation Committee chooses to give less than 70 permits, then the Community Development Director may allocate the rest of the permits to another cab company to be ratified by this body. Ms. Robin Baer, from Bob Hope Airport, was called forward to answer Ms. Francis' question about any concerns she may have for United Independent Taxi. She responded that other than not being contacted by the company she did not have any concerns. Mr. Flad asked the members to disclose any discussions with anybody outside of city staff regarding taxi cabs. Paul McKenna, Ralph Herman, Don Farquhar, Lt. Ron Caruso, Joe Terranova, Brian Malone, John Molinar, Robert Heins, Mike Flad, Celeste Francis, David Kriske, and Hank Jannace participated in the discussion and vote.

**Brian Malone motioned, and Joe Terranova seconded, to grant approval of the application for 20 permits beginning on July 1, 2008 for United Taxi of the South-West. This was based on the standards which were offered by the applicant. Those standards are as follows:**

- 1.) Brand new vehicles will be hybrid or will use alternative fuels like Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).**
- 2.) The \$10 minimum to pay by credit card must be waived. All credit cards are to be accepted.**

**Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

**C. Magnolia Park Parking Report and Recommendation– Ken Johnson**

Mr. Johnson stated Walker Parking Consultants, who were commissioned by the Community Development Department, completed a report on the Magnolia Park Parking issues. They found that the area has sufficient parking except by Magnolia and Hollywood Way. Mr. Kriske added that during the time of the observations there was a function at a neighborhood school near Cordova Street and Porto's Bakery that may have affected the counts. The high demand of parking in that area may not all be due to Porto's Bakery clients. The consultants advised staff against restricting residential parking due to the impact of the commercial businesses. Staff will return to this body with a refined report. Joe Terranova, David Kriske, Paul McKenna, and Mike Flad participated in the discussion.

**Note and File.**

**D. Safe Routes to School, Cycle 7– Ken Johnson**

Mr. Johnson stated that an 80/20 payment plan was approved with the federal grant paying 80% and the city paying 20%. With this grant money the city plans to add bulb outs and new lighted crosswalks. The new bulb outs are specifically designed to narrow the street so that children will have a shorter distance to walk across it. The bulb outs have curve radii more conducive to turning than to travelling straight, giving drivers a better view of pedestrians. Joe Terranova, Celeste Francis, Paul McKenna, and Ralph Herman participated in the discussion.

**Note and file.**

**E. Re-organized Burbank Municipal Code– Ken Johnson**

Mr. Johnson informed the committee that the Burbank Municipal Code has been re-numbered.

**Note and file.**

**F. Alameda Interchange Signing and Striping– Rabie Rahmani**

Mr. Rahmani reported that he met with Caltrans about the interchange at southbound Alameda and Interstate 5. Mr. Rahmani informed the members that Caltrans moved the signs that were behind sound walls, added some signage and cleared some brush. The site now meets Caltrans standards. Mr. Kriske said that a new short weaving lane will be added between the off-ramps at Verdugo, Olive and Alameda at the bridge near Providencia. Mr. Herman requested staff to check with Caltrans about delineations on the off-ramp. He feels that adding fixes like lines and more signs would make a difference for driver safety. David Kriske, Paul McKenna, Ralph Herman, Bonnie Teaford, Mike Flad, Rabie Rahmani, and Brian Malone participated in the discussion.

**There is no motion at this time.**

**V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

**VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Traffic Calming (speed control devices) – Johnson

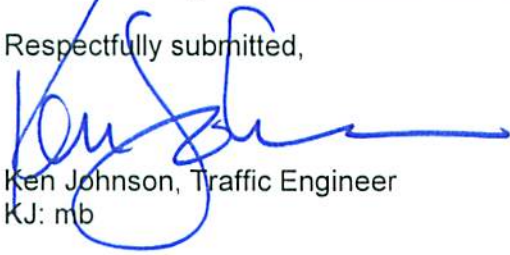
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- Alameda Interchange Signing and Striping (May 2007)– Herman
- Discussion of finding financing to build a Parking structure behind Porto's Bakery (Feb. 2008) – Terranova
- Commercial Vehicle Parking – Terranova
- Traffic signal coordination at Magnolia (May 2008) – Herman
- Discussion of November and December 2008 meeting dates (May 2008) – Malone
- Update on LNCV subcommittee recommendations (May 2008) – Herman
- T&T composition status (May 2008) – Terranova

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken Johnson, Traffic Engineer  
KJ: mb